
From: Mendez, Thomas
Sent: Sunday, September 16, 2018 11:37 AM
To: Benning, Brad; Kondreck, Robert; Faryan, Steve; Borries, Samuel; Brown, Jaime; Ribordy, Michael; Ruesch, Paul
Subject: Ozinga update 9/16

Sorry my computer is down again, otherwise I'd get a pol rep out. But I wanted to just send an update via email (iphone). Currently CFD is going to make a call [at noon](#) whether to stand down and stop putting water on the pile. Currently only one ladder is putting water input on it. The large bulk pile was really 2 "piles" before I left yesterday. There is really only one now and this is on the far side being wetted. It's size is down and they are still working on it. Because of the change of where water was being added overnight and this morning there now are 3 areas of concern currently for me.

1. Outside the facility boundary in the roadway. Risk is low now as the change to where water was added has not put more into this area and does not have an easy way to the river.
2. Large pool in front entrance. This pool has been slowly vac trucked up and has shrunk in size. With no new water input as the shift in position of the fire suppression has xfered this to the other side (see below). this is now under control.
3. Back drain closest to river. This is my main concern. They successfully filled and stopped flow from the last culvert to the river outfall. I recommended adding more fill there and they did. Any leftover water is traveling over to this area. However, USCG did allow the chem barge to come in and they currently have a trash pump directly relieving pooling from this area to the barge directly. Being told 350 gal/min. Much faster than vac trucks. With no new water input I think this can be handled without oversight as long as that pump keeps cutting the water level down.

My plan (if CFD is going to exit and no rain in forecast) is to make sure that back area (above 3) level is being cut down and that they have vac trucks still working on the other 2 areas. If this looks like its working, I plan to leave the site and have somebody come tomorrow (Steve or Paul) to check up on it. I'm in training [tomorrow afternoon](#) with all the other newer OSCs in Willowbrook.

If anyone has other input or changes to my plan let me know.

Tom

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2018, at 3:42 PM, Mendez, Thomas <mendez.thomas@epa.gov> wrote:

Just wanted to do a quick mid day update.

Fire department had stopped spraying the pile for about 3 hours to see its progress/switch out and reduce teams/decon. However they are adding water again at a reduced rate. They demobed their pump boat. Currently now pumping from a hydrant connection at a lower volume and only one ladder. I had some more material added to burms to shore them up. Material in piles is still smoldering and heavy machinery is now cutting the large piles down. No sheen that is visible on the water. Localized pooling (with sheen) is being vac trucked and then into frack tanks. Exploring options with USCG for a

chem barge to come and expedite the removal of any pooled water threatening the waterway. Air monitoring still ongoing. Light hits on particulate but suspect truck traffic as reason. Water samples are sent and should be analyzed shortly.

Sent from my iPhone

On Sep 15, 2018, at 10:37 AM, Benning, Brad <benning.bradley@epa.gov> wrote:

Region 5 ER Notification #3 (Final): Ozinga Tire Fire, Chicago, Illinois (NRC Report # 1224637)

Report as of: 1030 hrs CST, September 15, 2018

Overview: Large pile of shredded tires burning at 11701 Torrence Ave in Chicago, Il. Fire apparently started around 1400 hrs, local Fire Dept. responded to contain the fire. NRC report was submitted by the Fire Dept. around 1630 hrs. Area is in an industrial zone, no reported evacuations at this time. Fire Dept. has conducted some air monitoring. Fire water runoff has the potential to enter Calumet River. (Update): The Ozinga Tire Fire occurred on the Midwest Marine and Rail Terminals Property . The site is currently being used to store materials for later sale. Among the material is tire scrap which caught on fire for unknown reasons. The largest of scrap tire pile measured close to 40feet high and 60feet wide before being knocked down by water used to suppress the fire. The total volume of tire scrap is unknown. The site is surrounded by industrial properties to the north and south. To the east the site is bordered by the Calumet River followed by industry. To the west is South Torrence Ave followed by City of Chicago Park 565. There are a few residential houses to the northwest (0.3miles), a residential neighborhood to the west (0.85miles) and south (1mile)

State, Local, and other Federal Agency Action: Chicago Fire Dept. is on-scene and containing fire. Chicago Public Health has requested air monitoring support from EPA. Unknown if any action taken to control oil run-off to river. The Oil Trust Fund will be opened to address the potential oil release into the river and associated monitoring activity.

EPA Actions: OSC Tom Mendez and Rob Kondreck were dispatched to assess the situation. START resources were also dispatched to conduct air monitoring.

Current Actions: On September 14, 2018, EPA and START assessed the contact water from the tire fire and performed air quality measurements on behalf of The City of Chicago. The runoff from the burning tire scraps contained a noticeable oil sheen and a distinct odor. Runoff migrated throughout the site and pooled in lowlying areas.

Areas were diked leading to the Calumet River however some water was penetrating.

START performed air monitoring on 117th near the tire fire using an UltraRAE with benzene tubes. START also performed community air monitoring in residential areas located South Deering with results of non-detected for all constituents except VOCs which were 2.0 ppm (which may be attributed to sources not associated with the tire fire) and the East Side with results of non-detect for all constituents except VOCs which were 0.8 ppm (which may be attributed to equipment drift).

For the reporting period from 9/14/18 18:30 to 9/15/18 1030:

Chicago Fire Department (CFD) has applied water to suppressed hot spots within the tire scraps; CFD applied AFF Foam in an attempt to suppress hotspots; Ozinga contracted with Environmental Restoration (ER) to perform cleanup; ER contracted with (3) Vac Trucks to remove contact water; ER contracted (2) frac tanks (~22kgallons) and used a barge to store contact water; ER placed boom in water migration route and Ozinga bermed along pooled areas leading to Calumet river; At 0530 (9/15) Ozinga began using a front end loader to break apart the tire scrap piles.

START performed air monitoring in nearby neighborhoods; and START collected water samples of contact water throughout the site.

Anticipated activities for the next reporting period:

CFD will continue to apply water in an attempt to suppress the smoldering tire fire; Ozinga will break apart the tire scrap piles to provide CFD better surface area to eliminate hot spots; ER continue to remove contact water and containerize for treatment; EPA and START monitor for water going offsite; air monitoring; work with CFD and Ozinga to expedite removal.

Air monitoring will discontinue once the CFD puts out the fire. Monitoring of the contact water will continue until it is no longer a threat to the waterway.

Ozinga was issued a Notice of Federal Interest.

Media Interest: Moderate, Local TV has covered the story

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